

quote the other day. I was home this weekend with my wife and was looking over remarks made about John Paul II. The Archbishop said this:

He will be known, I firmly believe, as John Paul the Great in the long history of the church. This will be because of his profound writings and for his unceasing focus on the dignity of each and every human being and the paramount value of human life. To my mind, his election to the pontificate was made possible by the providence of God and demonstrates God's love for his church.

I agree with my friend Archbishop Flynn that John Paul II will be known in history as John Paul the Great.

The human family is plagued by many artificial divisions. Once in a great while, a figure emerges whose ideas and example resonate across all boundaries and brings us together. John Paul II was such a person.

As a Jew, I feel a deep sense of personal loss because the person I looked to for leadership and who I deeply and profoundly respected has passed on. I have the image of John Paul II at the western wall in Jerusalem, the Wailing Wall it has been called, the last remains of the outer part of the second temple, perhaps one of the holiest spots in the Jewish faith. I believe, if my recollection of Jewish tradition is correct, as you walk along the western wall, about 100 yards inward is the place where Abraham was going to sacrifice his son and the covenant with God was formed. I remember John Paul there praying, inserting his prayer—one of the things you do at the western wall is oftentimes you take a prayer and put it in one of the crevices of the wall as you say a prayer.

His feeling was so deep and rich. I can see him there praying in front of the western wall, I believe asking for forgiveness for the church for the history of antisemitism.

I have heard the essence of leadership described in this way: A leader maintains order in the midst of change and change in the midst of order. That was John Paul's outstanding gift. He held strongly to eternal values while he was a force for dynamic and even revolutionary change. He played a decisive role in the liberation of Eastern Europe and the fall of the Soviet Union. He has passed on within a few months of the other central figure in that historic change, Ronald Reagan. But Pope John Paul II did not wield military power. He was a man whose strength came from moral force and a conscience governed by peace.

Remarkably, he was able to lead with equal impact in the vigorous early days of his papacy and in the weakness of his latter years.

There has been so much that has been written and said about this Pope in the last few days that I believe has captured the essence of this great man. There is a piece I saw in Larry Kudlow's column. I would like to read from it:

John Paul II reached across all religious lines, becoming the most evangelical pope in recent memory. He was tireless as he spread

his message of traditional religious faith and values to anyone who would listen—believers, nonbelievers, Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, Jews. This will surely be one of his most enduring legacies. You do not have to be Catholic to be grateful for the service John Paul II rendered to all mankind.

He did a tremendous service by the way he reached out to Israel and Jews around the world. His visits to Holocaust sites healed generations of misunderstanding and underscored the world's conviction that events such as this must never be allowed to happen again.

His constancy showed us how to live. His forgiveness showed us how to deal with evil. His generosity showed us our obligation to the less fortunate. His faith showed us that we all live for purposes far beyond ourselves.

I was the mayor of St. Paul, MN, so I am happy to quote St. Paul's words to sum up the Holy Father's life:

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

John Paul II was an ambassador of love, and his love will continue to bless the world. I said to my wife the other day: How blessed we are to have lived in his time.

John Paul the Great is no longer physically with us, but he has touched all our souls in extraordinary ways. We thank God to have known him.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### HONORING POPE JOHN PAUL II

Mr. REID. Mr. President, a number of years ago, maybe 15 years ago, I had the opportunity to read a biography of Pope John Paul II. It was a big book given to me by a friend. I started reading it and I couldn't put it down. It read like a novel. He was a tremendously interesting, fascinating, wonderful human being I came to appreciate. I did not know much about the Pope, but after reading that book I tried to read everything I could about him.

The only personal situation I ever had involving the Pope was shortly after I read that book I traveled to Central America with a congressional delegation. This was during the time of the Iran contra conflict. One of the people we met was the Interior Minister of Nicaragua, a Communist. I met him. He was a pleasant man. He was a Catholic priest.

He talked about the fact he had been to Nevada. He was a relief priest. He would relieve priests in rural Nevada for their vacations. He talked about Battle Mountain where he had administered the last rites to a sheep herder. He was a very pleasant man. I learned later, however, about a story when the Pope had been through Nicaragua earlier. There was a long line of priests, as is traditional in the Catholic faith, that kiss the ring of the father, the Pope. When this man came by, the Pope withdrew his ring. He knew what this man had done in Nicaragua. He was a Communist, and he did not like what he had done, and he didn't kiss his ring; the Pope pulled it back.

Pope John was a man of conviction and very strong feelings. One of the strongest convictions he had was about communism. He knew what it had done to his country of birth.

He is exemplary of why the former Soviet Union could beat down religion in every country it oppressed except Poland. It couldn't do it. And Pope John was an example of how the Poles reacted to communism. They tried to shut the schools. The Catholic schools flourished during all the time of communism. They could not shut them down.

This weekend, the Catholic Church lost its spiritual leader and a spiritual leader of the world. Just because you are not of that faith does not take away from the spiritual power of this man. I acknowledge his spiritual power. In the book I read, I learned it was not unusual for Pope John Paul II to pray for 4 or 5 hours at a time. He was a man of great spirituality. Without any reservation, the world lost its spiritual leader and incredible role model. He displayed amazing strength, courage, and compassion throughout his life, his life of service to his fellow man.

As we know, he was born in Poland near Krakow. During his 84 years, he had enormous impact on the people and politics of his time. His lifetime and acts are full of lessons for all of us. But as so often is the case with life, you may not have guessed this from his early years. He was also a gifted athlete and extremely smart. He spoke fluently seven languages. His favorite sport was soccer. He, in his adult life, was an actor. He enjoyed acting. He wrote poetry. At the university he studied literature and philosophy and still found time to take part in the theater they had, becoming what many have called a gifted actor. That is what they called him at the time. For a while, his ambition was to be a professional actor.

Pope John did not become part of the priesthood as a teenager. He was in his midtwenties before he became a priest. In the early 1940s, his life led him to the priesthood and his ultimate calling. He was elected not long thereafter to be head of the Catholic Church in 1978. For 27 years he has changed lives and touched the world in countless